Location	Year 1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	Total
Deoria	0514	1847	1202	3563
Rampur	1782	0677	1508	3967
Muzzafarnagar	6622	6368	2433	15423
Saharanpur	1755	2076	2759	06590
Gurgaon	1817	0679	1026	03522
Jaisalmer	0211	0179	1605	1995
Pilibhit	0132	0035	0220	0387
Bijapur	0592	0664	0680	1936
Gulbarga	0963	0795	1046	2804
Wayanad	0521	0527	0590	1638
Mallapuram	0762	0803	0972	2537
Kozhikode	0715	1131	1707	3553
Palakkad	0650	0662	0694	2006
Kannur	0468	0473	0508	1449
Kurnool	0156	0245	0448	0849
Hyderabad	0082	0061	0048	0191
Katihar	0015	0028	0083	0126
TOTAL:	23581	24595	34419	82595

Gauge-wise length of railways in North-East

*490. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the gauge-wise length of railways in different States of North-East Region as on 1st April, 1997;

(b) whether there are proposals/ projects under consideration to expand length-wise and quality-wise railways in the North-East Region; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The gauge-wise length of railways in different States of North East region is given below:—

State	Length of railway line (Route km.) as on 31.3.96 (latest available figure)			Total
	B.G.	M.G.	N.G.	
Arunachal Pradesh	—	1	—	1
Assam	538	1903	—	2441
Manipur	—	1	—	1
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	—	2	—	2
Nagaland	—	13	—	13
Tripura	—	45	—	45

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following schemes are in progress or are being taken up which will increase the length of rail route in the North Eastern States:

1.	New line between Dudhnoi-Depa	: 15.5 Kms.
2.	New line between Jogighopa-Guwahati	: 142 Kms.
3.	New line between Kumarghat-Agartala	: 119 Kms.
4.	New line between Harmuti-Itanagar	: 33 Kms.
5.	New line between Diphu-Karong	: 123 Kms.
6.	Bridge at Bogibeel with traks on both sides to existing railway line	: 46 Kms
7.	Gauge conversion of Lumding-Silchar	: 198 Kms.
8.	Gauge conversion of New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon	: 276 Kms.

Import of Wheat and agencies authorised to import and procedure adopted

*491. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government imported wheat in 1996-97, if so, the total quantity thereof;

(b) the agencies authorised to import and the procedure adopted therefor;

(c) whether any global tender was issued for the import;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the price was negotiated with the firms before finalising the contract; and

(f) whether the price paid was higher than the price in the international market during that period?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. In December, 1996 Government had decided to import upto 2 million tonnes of wheat during 1996-97 and a quantity of 16.75 lakh tonnes was contracted for import during January, 97 to April, 97. Against this a quantity of 9.96 lakh MT arrived at Indian Ports upto 31st March, 1997. The balance quantity is expected to arrive by 15th May, 1997.

(b) to (d) The State Trading Corporation of India has been authorised by the Government to import wheat. The purchases have been made against tenders floated amongst leading foreign traders. Contracting has been done by STC after inviting tenders from International Grain Traders including publication in Indian Newspapers at times. The STC had floated tenders on 6.12.96, 11.12.96, 20.1.97, 24.2,97 and 17.3.97.

(e) and (f) Before finalising purchases the prices were negotiated with the tenderers. The prices at which the deals were finalised were quite competitive vis-a-vis prevailing international prices. A statement showing the price offered, contract price and the prevailing international prices as on the date of contracting is annexed.